

National Forest Advisory Board Meeting

June 17, 2015

Mystic Ranger District

Members Present:

Chairman Dick Brown, David Hague, Danielle Wiebers, Lauris Tysdal, Bob Burns, Nancy Trautman, Linda Tokarczyk, Tony Leif, Alice Allen, John Gomez, Jeanne Whalen, Mary Zimmerman, Mike Verchio, Jennifer Hinkhouse, Craig Tieszen, David Brenneisen

Members Absent:

Lon Carrier, Susan Johnson, Wayne Bunge, Jessica Crowder, Keith Haiar

Forest Service Representatives:

Craig Bobzien, Jerry Krueger, Scott Jacobson, Beth Doten, Twila Morris, Ralph Adam, Todd Pechota, Bonnie Jones, Dave Mertz

Others:

Approximately ten members of the public were in attendance. Two Congressional Representatives were also in attendance; Kyle Holt (Noem – R, South Dakota), and Katie Murray (Rounds – R, South Dakota).

Introduction & Welcome:

Brown: Call the meeting to order, 1:00 p.m. Welcome everyone, I'm Dick Brown and it is my pleasure to be the Chairman of the Board. Supervisor Bobzien do you have any comments?

Bobzien: Good afternoon everyone, great turnout today. We'll follow the agenda today with the exception of one area which is the Rainbow Family Gathering; we may flex on that a bit.

Approve the Agenda:

Brown: Our next piece of business is to approve the agenda. If there are no changes to the agenda as it is set before you, could I have a motion to adopt the agenda for today's meeting? Motion made by John Gomez second by Tony Leif. Are there any other questions or comments regarding the agenda? All in favor say aye, opposed say no; the agenda is approved.

Approve the May Meeting Notes:

Brown: Next we'll approve the minutes of the May 20th NFAB meeting. The notes were reviewed, edited and resent to all; are there any other suggested changes or corrections? Seeing none, can I have a motion to adopt the minutes as presented? Motion made by Craig Tieszen second by Mary Zimmerman. Are there any other comments? Seeing none; all in favor say aye, opposed say no; the meeting notes are approved.

Meeting Protocols:

Brown: Welcome members of the public, we appreciate that you are interested. We have a full agenda as we always do. If you have a cell phone, please put it on airplane mode. We want to invite all members and alternates to be at the table. I would like to remind the group that we have an opportunity if time allows for members of the public to make comments at the end of the agenda. You will be given three minutes to make your comment; and we would like to address issues on the agenda today. If there is not time for public comments, please send your comments to the appropriate member of the Board which represents your area of interest. We are an Advisory Group, reporting to the Supervisor who then reports back to the Secretary on a broad base of Black Hills National Forest (BHNF) policy, and input.

Let's move on now to our Hot Topics.

Hot Topics

Legislative Updates - Federal

Brown: Next up, we'll move to legislative updates; I don't think Mark is here today, so first will go with Kyle Holt with Representative Noem's Office.

Kyle: Thank you Mr. Chairman. The Waters of the US continues to be in the forefront. They have ruled that EPA does have the authority to regulate streams, waters in ditches, etc. Lots of comments were not in favor of the ruling; not the end of the road yet, the House passed some legislation, and the Senate has some sister legislation that would prevent it from happening. Currently they do not have funding to implement the rule. They are continuing to move forward with their plan. In Washington DC, they are working on appropriations hearings; the Labels of Origin rule was repealed; trade bills were the focus last week.

Locally, we are keeping an eye on the Badlands because they found a small lake under a portion of the trails system. Today they will start construction on that, and they will have a town hall meeting on Monday night. We are also keeping an eye on how things are going with the Rainbow Gathering.

Brown: Thank you Kyle, are there any questions or comments for Kyle? If not, we'll move on to Katie Murray with Senator Rounds' office.

Murray: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Currently the Senate is considering the National Defense Authorization Act; this includes legislation that protects B1 bombers. The Environment and Public Works Committee is working to roll back the EPA rule regarding Waters of the US, and task the Agencies with completely rewriting the rule. Senator Rounds is working on an Obama Care Replacement Act, which would eliminate all the rules of Obama Care. The Environment and Public Works Committee proposed to radically change the Ozone regulations standards.

Brown: Thank you Katie. Are there any questions for Katie? If not, we'll move on to the Wyoming Delegation. Jeannie Whalen, do you have anything from the Wyoming side?

Whalen: I reached out to them, but they had nothing to add. I would like to mention that there is a movement in the west for states to take over federal lands, and I wonder how current that is in SD. We get e-mails on a regular basis, so I would like to see that explored one of these days at an NFAB meeting.

Brown: Maybe we can pursue that as a subject in the future; we'll put that on the list. Welcome Mike Verchio and Craig Tieszen; do either of you have an update?

Verchio: I don't have an update, but I do want to thank everyone for all of your prayers and well wishes for my wife. She is done with chemotherapy, and finally at a spot where I can leave her alone for a while.

Tieszen: Not too much new, we are in the middle of summer studies; the only one that has an effect on the National Forest is the One-One County funding, to study how counties are funded. Counties are our partner in MPB work. Legislators will turn ideas into bills in the fall, session starts back in January and all of us are up for re-election next year.

Brown: Thank you Craig, we'll turn this over to Jerry at this point.

Forest Service Hot Topics ~ Craig Bobzien & Jerry Krueger

Cook Lake/Forest Recreation Sites and Roads Update

Krueger: Steve Kozel asked me to give an update about Cook Lake. The Colorado school of Mines was asked to come up and do a geological examination of the potential hazards at Cook Lake. The facility and crew were here for 10 days doing site surveys and they are now in the data analysis phase. The report will be ready sometime late summer or September.

Brown: Are there any questions for Jerry about Cook Lake?

Burns: Do you know if they have had the same amount of moisture as we have had here?

Krueger: I've asked Steve that question, and he said that they've received significantly less amounts all at one time than in other places in the Black Hills, but overall, they are right on track with the rest of the Black Hills in terms of amount of rain

Brown: We won't be back here meeting till September, but there might be some observations of the impacts on the Forest Service. Bismarck Lake was empty after it was dredged, and now it's full and thanks to the State of SD, the lake has fish in it.

Bobzien: There are a number of areas that we've had concerns about the moisture and flooding and some of those places we've left closures in place longer for resource protection; that number is declining, we should be fully open in the next week or so. We've got a lot of calls about areas that are closed, but we want to provide for resource protection and public safety.

Brown: Any questions or observations? We'll now go to the regular agenda; Supervisor Bobzien, any introduction or background?

Regular Agenda

Forest Health Working Group Update ~ Jim Scherrer, John Gomez, Nancy Trautman

Bobzien: I'm looking forward to this report. A number of folks will be coming up, Jim Scherrer will lead and moderate this section; we have members of the Board and others that assist all of us, states, counties, and others that participate in the all lands strategy. In a nut shell, what we asked for was to speak to the actions that the Board recommended to adopt in the FY 15 to 19 Action Plan. Today we'll hear about the broader all lands, accomplishments, priority areas for FY16 and beyond, the findings we've had in working out on the landscape; both in Wyoming and South Dakota. One other ask I had was that what we work on here is telling the story, and how we could continue to tell the story to the public about the work we are doing and why it matters. Welcome Jim Scherrer.

Scherrer: Thank you Supervisor Bobzien. Did you all have a good winter? I really have to apologize; I was trying to think about what I can do to coordinate something to kind of get us going in the right direction. I failed in time for this meeting, but I ask that for the August meeting, someone help me out; I'm looking for a tie dyed t-shirt to present to Supervisor Bobzien for all he's doing for the Rainbow Gathering. (Laugh)

The Supervisor put together a Working Group of the Advisory Board to address the issues of the MPB. Nancy, John, I, and our dear departed friend Bill are involved in this initial report. Today there are 16 different perspectives here, Dave Thom will talk at the beginning and end. Dave is the Coordinator of the BHMPB Working Group, Dave Mertz with the Forest Service will talk, and Greg Josten, who we are blessed to have living here in the Black Hills and here today, will talk. We used to be entertained by Bill and his unique presentation till he crossed over; but when we cross over, there it will be; but Dave will be involved and he has a sense of all the areas.

Thom: I'll start with FY 15, by way of introductions, I'll show you the map for the FY 15 Action Plan; the Action Plan on the Wyoming side and South Dakota side. This plan shows 182,000 acres of non-commercial treatments per year. No compilation of all the treatments yet. Most of the treatments ended March 1st.

Accomplishments: Commercial timbers sales, the most important way to deal with MPB, are an average of 30,000 acres per year. Dave will talk about priority areas.

Mertz: I wasn't too long ago, Craig mentioned, it – I brought our five year plan here and answered questions. We update that every year, and we'll do that again next winter. We are in the process of implementing this year's plan. We are in a good spot this year; last year we had a lot of our sales pushed toward the end of the FY, and that isn't where we want to be. This year, we have sold everything but four of our sales; actually three of those remaining should be sold in July and then the one remaining sale is a stewardship sale, and that will be awarded in mid-August or so. Good year for us; we have our final budget and got addition funding. We'll end up the year just slightly over 200,000 ccf; we started the year at 180, so this will be another good year for us.

Brown: Federal fiscal year, is that correct?

Mertz: Yes, the fiscal year ends September 30, 2015.

Josten: Thank you Mr. Chairman, and Supervisor Bobzien. The priority areas established last year through the collaborative process with the Working Group. The areas are Carbonate, Strawberry, Bald Hills, Calumet, Custer, and Custer State Park.

The time frame for marking trees is October 1st thru March 1st. The number of trees marked by State crews was 134,725 over 52,353 acres and includes all the priority areas. Total landowners 724 signed up for services, 28,023 acres and of those, we serviced 674 landowners over 21,666 acres. That does not include the work we did on National Forest system land or Custer State Park. The State Legislature has appropriated dollars for an all lands approach.

Last year we did work on the BHNf; we covered 13,247 acres, and identified 63,310 trees infested. I would like to pass out a fact sheet, but numbers are still changing. We started our annual survey to see if private landowners treated trees the State found on their property. Don't have all the info from the National Forest yet including info about trees we marked on NFS land. Our private landowner sign up is open to anyone in the Black Hills. Once we get our priority areas done we go and help everyone we can. We try to be flexible about where we go to do our work.

In December, the Northern Hills came up with the Limestone Ridge area that they needed help marking to get the sale out the door. Within that area we spent two weeks with a five person crew marking that area. There were 14,000 beetle infested trees. We consider that a real success story. Within a couple of weeks from marking, the FS was able to put that sale up and Niemen's was able to put a contractor in to harvest those trees, which saves the taxpayers money because we don't have to treat the trees.

Some additional accomplishment numbers: Total treated trees 75,659 on all ownerships. Private 21,666 trees marked, 17,232 treated, about 6,400 trees still show as unknown. We do have confirmation that 1,546 trees were not treated. Custer State Park marked 25,174 trees; of those trees 21,443 were treated. On the BHNf 69,310 trees marked, still don't have the full report. Trees that have been treated with State dollars or cost share is 21,825 trees. Numbers are changing daily; the final numbers will be posted on Beat the Beetles website.

Brown: That report is for South Dakota correct? For the tree marking from October to February on private land, is there eligibility requirements for the private landowners? Do they have to apply?

Josten: No criteria in terms of number of acres. Once we determine the priority areas, we mail a letter to every landowner in those areas, and tell them how they can sign up, either by phone or on line. Anyone outside the priority areas can also sign up. In previous years we advertised that but we ran into a situation that we couldn't service everyone that signs up. If someone calls we'll direct them how to sign up; otherwise we don't advertise for more.

Brown: Are you able to do the marking for everyone that asks? Does the budget allow you to get to each person?

Josten: As I said of the 724 that requested help, we got out to 674 of those. We have to budget enough money to treat the trees within the priority areas. When we find out how many trees we've marked, we have to estimate how much it will cost and then set that money aside. We budget for a certain amount for marking as well. This year, we were able to extend our marking

for a couple of weeks. Up in the Carbonate area there was a much more infested area than expected...in that area alone we marked 20,000 trees. If you can't harvest those trees, you have to cut and chunk, but in pockets that large cut and chunk doesn't work. We decided to walk away. All the private landowners that signed up in that area we surveyed almost all of them until the snow prevented us from getting into that area; because we had a savings there, we extended our marking crew time.

Scherrer: There have been a tremendous number of people that have been working with the State over the last several years, and they recognize that even if they are not in the priority area, the State will do everything they can to get on the property and mark the trees. So the State makes it easy to do the right thing.

Josten: For the cost share, we have a 20 tree minimum to provide cost share, if they have less than 20 trees, they have to take care of that themselves. We provided cost share to everyone who requested it last year.

Thom: Do you want to talk about the list of contractors you have on the website?

Josten: The landowner can hire a contractor, and send the bill to the State. We contract with loggers and tree cutters because we have absentee landowners; we contract with a bunch of cutters. If the landowner wants us to cut the trees, they pay 25% and we cover the other 75 % of the cost.

Thom: The other partners that haven't talked today; State of Wyoming - Weston/Crook Conservation Districts, each on one of the Counties on the South Dakota side have similar programs going on so we'll tally those up and have an accomplishment report in October.

Thom: There are some goals that we outlined and we are developing a map for FY 16.

Goals

1. Focus our treatments – priority areas.
2. Timber Sale Program – most important.
3. Treat public travel ways and recreation sites and areas of importance.
4. Coordinated training.
5. Administrative Agreements.
6. Private landowner programs.

Mertz: This year we'll be close to 10,000 acres of pre-commercial thinning as well. So for FY 2016 (Review of map); the focus will be on the east side and next year we'll get a lot of that wrapped up as well as along the Wyoming state line. Plan to do 180,000 ccf, remember our budget cycle, we'll get the initial budget in August, the numbers are probably the same as last year, but we usually get some extra money, so that we can do extra projects. We have been meeting with the State – Greg will talk about that.

Josten: Thanks Dave. Priority areas for this year; we talked with the Forest Service about where they will be working this year, and where MPB infestations seem to be the most threatening to determine the priority areas for this year. I'm sure you are aware that we had a decrease in expansions, about 50 % of what it was the previous year. We hope that trend continues next year. As these epidemics crash there will be hot spots; currently one in the

Northern Hills and one in the Southern Hills. The MPB is scattering throughout the hills, it's not like they are just going to go away. We are taking another look at the Carbonate area, lots of interest from the landowners there as well. There is a high level of infestation in the Strawberry area as well.

Vestal Project: The Hell Canyon Ranger District has indicated that at least this time we are looking at a 300 foot buffer around private land. Right now we have nothing set up. One area of concern is close to the Custer State Park boundary; the NEPA wasn't done so we were not able to do anything in there. Will be going into Custer State Park again this year, ongoing epidemic in the Black Elk Wilderness, also the Buckhorn area is an area of heavy infestation. The Calumet area was selected because the Ranger District was willing to work with us on setting up timber sales if there were a large number of infestations. We couldn't find a contractor to purchase the sale. Bald Hills; we were able to help the Forest Service mark these areas. The Mystic Ranger District indicated that...back to carbonate...indicated that they are willing to allow us to do the 300 foot buffer. Mystic Ranger District has a number of small sales that they would like assistance on. Those are the things we are considering as well as what the county plans to do. We'll make a decision soon because we need to get contracts into place for this fall.

Tieszen: You made a comment about what we are seeing in Custer State Park; how much money will they get to work in the Park?

Josten: We're seeing a downward trend, mostly getting end flights – we try to get a 100% of the infested trees we find. This year we spent just under \$700,000 in CSP with marking, treatments and spraying – we used MPB suppression funding from state legislature, and federal grants, plus CSP also dedicates some of their funds.

Thom: State of Wyoming submitted some of their preliminary thoughts for FY 16, and we'll talk about those next week.

Scherrer: The last piece of this is to tell the story, Supervisor Bobzien has been working with the media, and with Scott and Beth, and you may have seen on Fox 7 Focus, Supervisor Bobzien, Greg Josten, and Dave Thom all sat down for an hour for an interview regarding MPB. Along those lines, we'll have Scott talk about the plan for the video and partnerships.

Jacobson: We do like to tell the story because people want to know. Last fall we got money from the Washington Office to do work on the Vestal project. This year we got more money with the Joint Chief award, so we had a million dollars to do work just on the Vestal project. Craig asked that we do something to tell that story about work on the Vestal area. Jerry and I brainstormed, and talked about getting ahold of PBS, and they were very interested, and came out in three weeks. Spent a few days with them, and talked about landscape scale projects and they wanted to go around to the whole Forest.

Another story that we told was about the Section 1 fire that we did last fall; this was a nice partnership between private, county, state, and federal. Phil Lambert did the interview; just as we were about to his property, there was a herd of elk in the nice green grass. The PBS guys locked up the breaks, and pulled out the cameras. After we talked to Phil, we went to the area of the North Pole Fire. We showed them what a fire will do when a fire hits a thinned stand of trees, the fire laid down, and we were able to catch it. It was a dry and windy day, and it could have gotten away from us, but the thinned area helped.

We went to the Central Hills next, to Silver City where John Gomez was our host. We talked about what Silver City has done, and Nancy came up and did an interview. Scott Guffey came up and talked about his work with the Forest Service on the ingress/egress areas. Chris Stover talked about the work that was done to protect the “Sunnyside Area”, and told that story about the Central Hills. The next day we took them up to the Northern Hills, showed them the partnership project; they couldn’t believe how that work was getting done. They will have a one hour documentary sometime this September or October; it will be a neat deal.

Beth and I are also working on a 10 minute video to tell the story of Vestal; all lands all hands partner video for internal and external use. We love telling our story.

Brown: Thank you Scott, are there any questions for Scott?

Scherrer: We hear it from the experts and if you don’t tell the people that control the money you are SOL, so what Scott is talking about really helps us at the State level and Federal level. It’s a good thing, and it’s great that there is that much focus on the issue. Hopefully this gives you a good update.

Brown: Thank you all for reporting.

Bobzien: I would like to thank the members of the Working Group; I also want to thank the Board, for their relationships and outcomes. The first is thanking the Working Group and you all, when I look around and think about the personal efforts that people have made, we have been doing this for some time, and one thing I share with our Regional Office and DC Office, when I was there a couple of years ago, the things we work with a lot we think is old news, but to new audiences is news.

Outcomes: Drive through the forest and the areas with red needles are visible in the steep parts of the forest, which goes back to why we are doing what we are doing. The more gentle terrain is where we are able to do work. I think about what our forests would be like if we didn’t have the partnerships that we do, the outcomes that make the forest more resilient; private landowners that are concerned, and how the operations are put on the ground. We hear a lot of concerns and we try to address those concerns. It’s all about making the forest more resilient, it’s about the outcomes and relationships that matter. We’ll talk about this on the field trip. I want to thank you for the outcomes and relationships.

Over Snow and Non-Motorized Working Group & Travel Subpart C ~ Craig Bobzien

Brown: Supervisor Bobzien, before we take a break, would you like to cover this next topic?

Bobzien: I would like to have Bonnie Jones stand up; Bonnie will be our Acting Recreation Program Leader for the Forest. We want to also welcome Ralph Adam and John Kelly here today.

Requests:

- Given substantial interest in winter over-snow recreation on the Black Hills.
- Given there are well established and emerging partnership interest in managing high-quality winter recreation in the Black Hills.
- Give the Black Hills has existing requests for fat tires to use portions of groomed trail systems.
- Given the Forest Service has regulations that require public involvement and procedures in implementing CFR 215 Subpart C.
- Given the over snow analysis will require substantial investment of appropriated funds that are also used for important recreation, facilities, and trails work.

My question for the Working Group is when and how we should conduct public involvement, appropriate analysis to respond to these and should the analysis be combined for both over snow and motorized and non-motorized travel?

Members of the Working Group:

- Bob Burns, Chairman
- Mary Zimmerman, Environmental Concerns
- Dave Hague, Motorized Recreation Concerns
- Percy Shannon, State of South Dakota
- Kim Rapp, State of Wyoming

This group will work with Bonnie Jones to get some meetings scheduled and determine when to meet this month. I would like to meet with the group for the initial meeting; we'll provide resource information and regulations.

Brown: Does anyone have any questions?

Jones: I already talked to Bob and he said we'll have 12 meetings this week! We can get together and figure out the meeting schedule.

Brown: Thank you Craig for that concise report on the Governor's Task Force, we'll take a 10 minute break after we hear from Jerry.

Krueger: Many of you have heard discussion on the Farm Bill that was passed last year; there were new authorizations, but the Forest Service piece of the Farm Bill very minor. From a funding standpoint, a fraction of it was related to Forest Service. There are two key components; one is the permanent authorization of the Stewardship Authority. This gives us the ability to build stewardship contracts which allows us to trade goods for services. Costs associated form a County perspective and a Forest perspective. The other piece that is of interest at the state level is the authorization of use of a categorical exclusion that is a type of NEPA that requires less analysis and gives us the authority to great 3,000 acre CEs. That was taken away from us through litigation and concerns. We are not planning to take advantage of this in the near term, that isn't to say we won't take advantage of it, but we don't have one on the books.

The second piece of that relates to the States. We have a process by which we work with the State and Governor to designate critical landscapes and that has the Good neighbor Authority with it. We haven't gotten guidance yet form the Chief and WO, but we continue to hope that

the guidance comes out soon. So this is a suite of new tools and permanent authorization of the Stewardship Authority that will give us more to work with.

Rainbow Gathering ~ Craig Bobzien

Brown: I'll turn it over to Craig Bobzien to introduce the next topic.

Bobzien: Our next topic is a briefing on the Rainbow Gathering. On June 3rd members saw my 1st e-mail regarding the information I had received on the Rainbow Gathering and some of the responsibilities we have. Some of the members participated along with other leaders that were interested and have a jurisdictional responsibility. We have had two of those meetings the last couple of Fridays and a third meeting is planned for this Friday. Some of the board members have been there and I thought it be good for the rest of the members to hear. I'd like to introduce the Washington Office Incident Management Team commander. He is responsible for leading the incident management team that is supporting the Black Hills National Forest. This event could be approximately 7,000-20,000 people. We also have assembled a Forest Service incident support team to provide for employee and public health and safety and the protection of cultural and natural resources. The Incident Commander (IC) will speak about any updates and possible locations. We will be working in a unified command. We appreciate them being here to manage this event and we welcome their experience.

The Washington Office Incident Management Team commander gave a presentation and overview on the Rainbow Family Gathering of Living Light.

Tieszen: How much information do you have on where the camp is located and how many acres in size will the camp be?

IC: We are estimating about 200-400 acres in size. The gatherers spread out over several acres. Forest Service staff and I will give them input, but they are pretty much set on where they want to go. We try to remove them from any areas that they can't be in. The Forest Supervisor and rangers will meet with them and give them some information on those specific areas.

Tieszen: Is there a history of violence, arrests and confrontations?

IC: Yes.

Scherer: Historically, do they avoid close proximity to private land owners?

IC: They try to stay away from private land. They do not use private land as the gathering site but sometimes they will bump up to private land, it's not common, but it has happened.

Tysdal: What about drugs, especially marijuana? It's not legal in South Dakota. If you can smell it on them, or they have it, does that get them a citation?

IC: Yes, that is illegal and we will enforce that. Even if it's not the rainbow group, that is still illegal and enforced.

Tysdal: When they camp in these meadows, do you get your range people out there?

Bobzien: Our Forest team will have resource advisors out there to protect natural resources of concern.

Zimmerman: I'm wondering if they have been here in the past, and if so, how many times? When was it and where? What were the problems at that time? Are they dispersing farther out and will we see them all over the hills or in one area?

IC: Approximately 25 years ago they held a regional gathering in the Black Hills. There were about 500 people in attendance. I don't have any historical documents on that gathering. Normally they will stay within the confines of their camp. After the event, there may be some people going to other locations, but most will start moving out, but we won't expect the same impacts of them camping as at the main event.

Brown: You try to control behavior of 100, not 7,000. Every time this group meets, there is a counter group that says you shouldn't be here. Does your group visit with antagonizing folks and are you limited in resources?

IC: It depends on the type of group and where law enforcement (LEO's) would fit in. Sometimes, having LEO's involved would aggravate the situation. The Forest Service has been working directly with the tribes and community and we have been working on the law enforcement side to see if there are any other issues that we need look at.

Tysdal: One more thing on drugs, did they legalize drugs in Washington D.C. and on the reservations?

IC: If you are talking marijuana, yes.

Tysdal: Is it legal in the Black Hills National Forest?

IC: It is illegal. Congress did not challenge the D.C. politics. Under Federal law it is a controlled substance and illegal on federal land. Tribal government has rules on what they can and can't do.

Whalen: I'd like to know about the permit. My concern is they are drinking stream water and going to the bathroom on the ground. Why do they not need a permit and how is this gathering different from a group that needs a permit?

Bobzien: My first meeting was with four rainbow affiliates. I talked about the need for a permit for 75 people or more. They refused to sign that permit. We will continue to engage on that. South Dakota has laws regarding sanitation. We have brought forth some sanitation requirements. We have talked about the open burning permit and that they would be required to sign a permit for the Forest Service and Governor of South Dakota. We will review their applications fairly and we are using our standard applications on these kinds of procedures that would grant a permit for open fire.

Hague: You mentioned pedophiles and as a father that really gets my attention. Do you patrol the kiddie areas?

IC: If we know they are there we will go find them. When we are there, we are looking for them. We work with the states and adjoining states and are watching everybody we can.

Tysdal: Do you ever check the kitchens to see what they are cooking? I'm worried about my cows.

IC: Our officers are checking multiple things. We are looking as close as we can and if we see a cow hanging or if there is a calf loose, we are paying attention to those sort of things. We will take care of what we need to in the judicial system.

Scherrer: How many bodies will you have during this? Will there be assistants from counties, the sheriff's department and other disciplines collaborating?

IC: We have a team of officers here training and we are working in conjunction with whatever county it ends up in. The highway patrol and DCI have offered up resources and the counties have a mutual aid agreement in place.

Brown: Constitutional issues and crowd control are big issues. But the concern that most of us have is at the end of the day, when this is over, there are consequences to the budget. Is there a fund that helps with this outside of your operating fund? How does the final cost affect the Forest and impact it?

Bobzien: Currently we don't have any identified funds for this. We will have to provide resources and funding to be successful.

Brown: Thanks for being here and for your presentation. Are there any other questions?

75th Sturgis Motorcycle Rally Planning Update ~ Todd Pechota

Brown: The next topic on the agenda is the 75th Sturgis Motorcycle Rally fire planning update.

Bobzien: Many of you have met and worked with Todd Pechota before. He is the fire management officer on the Black Hills National Forest and has been involved in the fire planning and preparation for 75th Sturgis Rally.

Pechota: Essentially since the conclusion of the 74th rally, a monumental planning effort has been under way. Led by the secretary for public safety and office of emergency management, lots and lots of planning have gone into this. I will talk specifically about the fire side. There is a basic plan in place and being worked on and in that there are preparations for fraud, traffic, cooperation with Rapid City Regional, and everything and anything we could think of that could go wrong. If you look hard on the document, it is a draft. As this relates the Black Hills National Forest, we have a three tiered plan on how we will handle fire response in the Forest. Fire response 1 is low fire danger and you'd be lucky to start a fire. Fire response 2 is moderate fire danger that we may experience. Fire response 3, all of 2012 was response level 3 where every wildland fire was a potential problem. If you look at the resources, we have it broken out by prevention, resources, communications and others. We are working in cooperation with South Dakota Wildland Fire Division, who has a similar plan that will increase our response capability. So when will we know what response level we will need? We will watch the weather closely and we will find out where we need to start at. We will hedge on the side of building up and if we have to we can ramp it down. If activity in the west picks up, it gets more difficult to get resources. We want to be on the front end of this and have things not go south. We think we have a good plan and it is pretty aggressive.

Brown: Are there any questions?

Allen: I know your plan has to do with fire, but there has been buzz about the capacity of medical services in Rapid City and throughout the hills. Do you know anything about the medical community's effort?

Pechota: I can't speak specifically for them, but I do know there is a whole other effort underway with EMS providers, National Guard, life flight, and others. We have a health care system built for 785,000 people and in two weeks we will double that. Hopefully we don't have any mass causality events. My time has been focused on wildland fire response and there is a group working on medical response.

Brown: Jim Scherer, would you share your knowledge on medical response?

Scherrer: It's a collaborative effort and in my 35 years in the health care community, it's a testimony to how they come together. The bulk of the injuries are orthopedic in nature but the emergency department urgent care meet every month, year round to plan and they bring outside help in. When we have people from outside the state, if possible we will get them on a plane back to where they live. The best thing is to get them stabilized and get them out of here. You don't want any elective medical work done the week before or after the rally. We have two orthopedic surgeons on call 24/7 and they are constantly operating. The media under reports the accidents and incidents, it's unbelievable. They would report that we had 65 orthopedic injuries, but they don't say that the surgeon may have done 3-4 below the knee amputations and somewhere between 20-30 amputations. I'm proud to be a part of the western South Dakota health care community. We bring people out of retirement during the rally as well.

Whalen: Mr. Chairman, are they going to get everything going with the WY coalition?

Pechota: This isn't a South Dakota centered effort, Wyoming was there as well. As far as the board goes, we will bring a number of officers in to support our LEO's to help with public safety.

Martin: As all of you have lived through the rally, we know there is a lot of traffic, camping and other recreation concerns. We meet monthly to work on these concerns and we work closely with the Sheriff's department. Most of the LEO's on the Forest are deputized with local police departments and other agencies that have responsibilities. We will be here for a few days prior and after the event. We will be housed in various locations and the Forest will be covered north to south. It is a collaborative effort and it's in conjunction with Craig and his staff.

Brown: Are there any questions? Thank you for the update.

Brenneisen: Just for curiosity sake, with a show of hands, whose business is affected by the rally? Positively? Negatively? From our business standpoint, on top of the flooding, the rally costs us 1% of our production. With the increased numbers for this rally, we may end up shutting all three mills down for an entire week. Any of you that have driven by the mill know it's impossible to get trucks in and out of the Hill City mill. That would be about 2% loss and then you've got the rainbows coming. We've got sales to complete, but we will not because of the extra people in the vicinity and it may be impossible to run log trucks through there.

Brown: Any other questions or topics?

Black Hills National Forest Social Media Presentation ~ Scott Jacobson & Beth Doten

Brown: We'll go ahead and get started, please take your seats.

Bobzien: Scott Jacobson and Beth Doten are the Public Affairs Staff on the Black Hills National Forest; they've done really great work to prepare for the social media here on the Forest.

Jacobson: By a show of hands; who uses social media? We are a pilot Forest for a mobile app for the Forest Service – we'll show you that. We also have an active Facebook account, twitter account, g-mail account used to blog, etc. and well show you those.

Prezi: Social Media ~ Scott Jacobson and Beth Doten, Public Affairs

"Social media is an innovative way of socializing where we engage in an open dialogue, tell our stories and interact with one another using online platforms." (Associated Press, 2010)

Understanding the Power of Social Media - (Video)

Traditional Vs. Social Media

- Traditional
 - Some are real-time
 - Controlled by the media
 - Large infrastructure required for large reach
 - Media is the middleman
- Social Media
 - Real-time
 - Can be updated instantly by anyone
 - Broader reach for relatively low cost
 - Direct from source

Tools - Social media technologies take on many different forms including blogs, business networks, photo sharing, video sharing, products/services reviews and social networks.

- Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/blackhillsnf>
 - Forest Facebook page went Live on 8/1/14
 - Currently have 951 followers and growing steadily (June 15, 2015)
 - There is the capability to pre-schedule posts – have done so on weekends/holidays
 - Posts “Reached” varies, but has been averaging about 1,500 users/week
 - During the flooding at Pactola, posts were reaching 20,000+ users/week
 - A recent mountain lion video posted was viewed by 10,700 users
 - “Share” posts from partner pages – including WO FB page, National Forest Foundation, Discover the Forest, etc.

- Twitter - <https://twitter.com/BlackHillsNF>
 - Currently have 2,404 followers (June 15, 2015)
 - Limited on # of characters per tweet
 - Re-tweet from WO FS Twitter and other partner pages
- Hootsuite
 - Allows you to manage several social media accounts at the same time
 - Can share and schedule posts from your Twitter, Facebook, and other accounts all from one app
- Great Plains Fire Info/Blogger - <http://gpfireinfo.blogspot.com/p/great-plains-fire-information-home.html>
 - The system, Great Plains Fire Information, is an interagency google g-mail account that is run by federal and state agencies within the Great Plains Dispatch Zone.
 - Current agencies Involved:
 - Black Hills National Forest
 - Nebraska National Forests and Grasslands
 - South Dakota Wildland Fire Division
 - The information posted to the blog is the information that is posted to WildWeb or information that is received from GPC, the duty officer or the IC.
 - This blog link may be checked anytime of the day to see any updates that have been posted on initial attack fires.
 - Show Stats in Blog (Click “more stats” link)
 - There are also directions for how subscribe to the blog under the “Notification of Updates” tab. It is really easy to subscribe, you just enter your e-mail in this box and a pop-up box will appear asking for a verification code.
 - When you subscribe, you’ll receive one email notification daily with any updates that have been made to the blog. We’ve currently got it set up to send a notification around 3-4 p.m. in the afternoon.
 - From the blog, you can also subscribe to the Atom Feed Reader. If you have a reader that follows Web feeds on your computer, the reader will check for updates and notify you whenever they are published on the website.
- ForestPhoto - <http://www.forestphoto.com/assetbank-forest/action/viewHome>
 - The Forest is currently using this site as a photo, video, document archive.
- Black Hills National Forest Phone App – Release Coming Soon
 - (App displayed on projector screen)

Allen: Can you program the app, so that when you push near me, it knows where you are? Can you program it for google maps so it will give you directions?

Jacobson: That is one thing I'm striving for is a map link.

Brown: Can you put in a link to other resources whether it's Custer State Park or others? Are there any policies on linking to those? If you want to find out what is going on in the SD State Park a link would be nice.

Jacobson: We could provide those links, we don't have them now, but we could. If you click on hunting it will go to the SD hunting regulations. Wyoming same thing, it will take you to the Wyoming State regulations if you click on it.

Brown: How do you keep this up to date?

Jacobson: My concern was that we would have to update all of these applications individually, but what we do is link all the apps to the website, and we just make sure to keep our website very accurate.

Allen: If we have a picture that we think you might want to post, can we send that to you?

Jacobson: Yes please, e-mail them to us, and we'll get them posted. We do like to do that. We have ways of protecting our communication; if people have negative things to say, we do take those down. We partner with the National Forest Foundation to have a page on their account; so if there is something negative, it is taken down.

Brown: Great report, thank you Scott.

Bobzien: Thank you Scott and Beth, let's have a round for Beth, for all of her work and the mastermind behind the use of these fancy new apps.

August 2015 Field Trip ~ Craig Bobzien

Brown: Would you give us a little background on the field trip?

Bobzien: We had some discussion from the last meeting and in summary we are looking to do the field trip in South Dakota this year. We will be in the east/central part of the Black Hills. We'd like to have a lot of interaction on the trip and cover items that are important to the board and that we have asked for advice on. Some of the topics to cover may be the work with the working group on recreation facilities and what the working group has completed. Also other topics to include could be motorized travel and over-snow travel, wildlife management, rangeland management and forest health and conditions. Some of the areas we've talked about might be some of the modules/areas we see. After discussing with Dave, we are wondering about using ATVs. We could shuttle part of the group on ATVs and make multiple trips. There are a number of things we are working through to have a safe and meaningful trip. We need to organize what the best stops are and we want to leave plenty of time for discussion. The only problem we foresee is that four different stops may not leave enough time for in depth

conversation at each of those stops. Bob, Dick and I spoke about this and we are wondering if there are any observations/suggestions?

Burns: When is the date?

Jacobson: The third Wednesday of August.

Brown: Aug. 19th

Brown: Are there any other observations/comments? Some of the folks that will be coming on in September are being vetted and they will not be part of the group yet. Will they be part of the trip? Maybe we can make that happen.

September Board Elections ~ Chairman Brown

Brown: The next topic on the agenda is on September board announcements. You mentioned last time that they will be at the September meeting.

Jacobson: The nomination package was submitted a couple of months ago and the last time this process took place, it took 5 months. I'm assuming we should know something by September 1. The last time Secretary Vilsack sent a letter and we just don't know what that date will be.

Brown: Is there potential that we may not have a September meeting if the appointment letters are not out?

Jacobson: The current appointments expire the end of August.

Brown: If we do have a meeting in September, will there be elections and will we start with a new team and see where we want to go? Are there any other questions from members of the board?

Allen: For clarification, folks on the recreation working group, we had a very brief update at the last meeting and we were told that this topic would make this meeting but it didn't. Can you update us on the funding and how it all comes out of the same pot of money? Is there going to be a meeting from the two groups down the road?

Bobzien: We will have the results this summer. They will have the data verification work done and when that happens; we want to re-engage the working group. Yes that is a great suggestion, we talked about the same pot of money and that's a point to come back to the board with for a discussion on how we can merge together some of those interests and how we have those cumulative effects.

Brown: We would hope by that time they would have done this initial review. The working group will be dealing with facilities. How does that impact and work with overall users, how much money do we have and how can we handle it?

Adam: The data verification has been completed for all of the districts. It took an average of 2 days to complete. What's it going to cost? What do we have on the books to bring a site up to standards? They are looking at that and they have information on proximity to other facilities. They just completed this data last week.

Brown: We are going forward in a systematic way.

Public Comments ~ Brown

Brown: We will take this opportunity to hear from the public.

Sam Griner: I wanted to commend Forest Supervisor Bobzien and the team for everything that they are doing with the Rainbow Family Gathering and also the LEO's for the Rally work. Is there a quick response number for problems?

Jacobson: Yes, call 911.

Griner: I was wondering if there was anything directly for that. When there is an e-mail addressed to Twila and Bobzien, is there a time limit that they are supposed to get back to that group?

Brown: The Forest Service can respond to that.

Bobzien: If we receive a notice of intent for mineral operations, for example, we have 30 days. There may be some other regulations out there on certain response times, but I don't know of others.

Griner: I sent an e-mail and I was wondering if you were going to respond? It had to do with the road closure by Custer.

Brown: Sam if you could follow up with that after we are done with the Forest rather than holding up the group that would be appreciated. Thanks.

ADJOURN

Brown: Are there any more comments? If not, could I have a motion to adjourn? The motion is made by Allen and seconded by Hague, the motion passed unanimously.

The Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m. Next meeting (field trip) is scheduled for Wednesday, August 19, 2015.